

## 2015 Specialty Crop Block Grant FAQ

- 1) Is it allowable to pay a partner organization a percentage of the grant to provide financial oversight of the funds?

Because indirect costs are not an allowable expense for this grant, it would not be allowable to claim a set percent of the grant as an expense for financial management. That said, the cost of financial management would be allowable, if treated as a direct expense on the grant. This means that financial management staff would need to be listed in the budget narrative and those staff would only be able to charge time to the grant they could document was spent SCBG activities.

- 2) Are wages an allowable expense for this grant?

Salaries and wages are allowable as long as they can be tied to activities of the grant with time and effort reports (e.g. timesheets).

- 3) Where do we find information on what costs are allowable?

The most comprehensive guidance on allowable expenses can be found in the federal cost principals located in [Subpart E of 2 CFR 200](#). We also anticipate that USDA will publish a list of allowable and unallowable costs when they post this funding opportunity. Questions regarding allowable costs can be directed to the SCBG program manager at [jauer@mt.gov](mailto:jauer@mt.gov).

- 4) Are there already project that are planned to be funded through this grant?

All of the funding from this grant will be awarded on a competitive basis. Projects awarded in previous years are fully funded through other sources.

- 5) Is a coop of growers eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as they are registered with the Montana Secretary of State and neither the organizations nor individuals involved are debarred or suspended from receiving federal funds.

- 6) Is it better for my organization to partner with a more experienced organization on our application?

Montana Department of Agriculture encourages all applicants to involve partners and stakeholders in their proposals. As to whether it is preferable to partner with a more experienced organization, this is up to the applicant. Experience in managing federal grants is not a requirement of this program. However, a demonstrated ability to successfully manage federal grants will make a stronger proposal.

- 7) Are sunflowers seeds grown for human consumption an eligible crop for SCBG funding?

Yes, sunflowers grown for ornamentation are eligible as well. However, sunflowers grown for oil production are not an eligible crop for this grant.